

REMARKS

This paper responds to the Final Office Action mailed on January 12, 2006. Claims 1-16, 20-30, 34-37 and 40 are now pending in this application..

First §103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 2-4, 6-10, 12-14, 20-23, 27-29, 34-37 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steffensmeier (U.S. 6,540,363) in view of Schwarzenberger (U.S. 6,128,054). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because the combination of Steffensmeier and Schwarzenberger does not describe each and every element of the claimed invention, and there is no motivation or suggestion to combine Steffensmeier and Schwarzenberger.

I. Steffensmeier and Schwarzenberger do not teach or suggest every element of claims 1, 2-4, 6-10, 12-14, 20-23, 27-29, 34-37 and 40.

To sustain a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103, references must be cited that teach or suggest all the claim elements. M.P.E.P. § 2142 (citing *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed.Cir. 1991)). In determining the differences between the prior art and the claims, the question under 35 U.S.C. 103 is not whether the differences themselves would have been obvious, but whether the claimed invention as a whole would have been obvious. *Stratoflex, Inc. v. Aeroquip Corp.*, 713 F.2d 1530, 218 USPQ 871 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *Schenck v. Nortron Corp.*, 713 F.2d 782, 218 USPQ 698 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *Interconnect Planning Corp. v. Feil*, 774 F.2d 1132, 1143, 227 USPQ 543, 551 (Fed. Cir. 1985); MPEP § 2141.02.

The Examiner states at page 2 of the Final Office Action with regard to the Steffensmeier reference that “Steffensmeier discloses a plurality of display devices, wherein each display device is subdivided into a plurality of sections (12a, 10b, 10c, 14a, 14b, 14c), with each section separately configured to display a sectional image (Fig. 1, ref. 30a, 30b, 30c), each display device including a dead-band region between each pair of adjacent sections (area between display devices 30a, 30b, 30c).” Applicant respectfully traverses these assertions because FIG. 1

and the specification of Steffensmeier clearly show that reference numbers 10a, 10b, 10c refer to projection channels.

In addition, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the Abstract of Steffensmeier which states that "each projection channel projects a substantially mutually exclusive portion of an image onto a display area." Therefore, the Abstract of Steffensmeier makes it clear that each projection channel 10a, 10b, 10c projects one portion of an image onto the display.

Applicant notes that there is no teaching or suggestion in Steffensmeier that the projection channels 10a, 10b, 10c are subdivided. Applicant further notes that there is similarly no teaching or suggestion in Schwarzenberger that the display devices 2, 3 are subdivided. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Steffensmeier and/or Schwarzenberger do not teach or suggest:

"each display device is subdivided into a plurality of sections with each section separately configured to display a sectional image, each display device including a dead-band region between each pair of adjacent sections" in combination with "wherein the lens assemblies provide magnification to merge adjacent projected sectional images together to eliminate the dead-band regions from the tiled image" as recited in claim 1;

"subdividing each of the display devices into a plurality of separate display sections such that there is a dead-band region between each pair of adjacent sections on each display device" in combination with "wherein projecting the sectional image displayed on each section includes . . . magnifying adjacent sectional images on either side of the dead-band regions to eliminate the dead-band regions from the tiled image" as recited in claim 28; or

"means for subdividing each display device into a plurality of separate display sections such that each display device includes a dead-band region between each pair of adjacent sections" in combination with "wherein the projecting means includes means for magnifying adjacent sectional images to merge adjacent projected sectional images together to eliminate the dead-band regions from the tiled image" as recited in claim 37.

The Examiner acknowledges at page 3 of the Final Office Action that "Steffensmeier does not disclose at least one lens assembly being configured to provide a shift so that respective projected sectional image on the screen is shifted sideways with respect to an axis normal to the corresponding section image." The Examiner attempts to overcome the acknowledged

deficiencies of Steffensmeier by combining Steffensmeier with Schwarzenberger. The Examiner states at page 3 of the Office Action that "Schwarzenberger in disclosing an apparatus for displaying an image disclose that the arrays shift the given parts of the display area to form a viewable image of the whole display area in which gaps between the neighboring parts of the image are less visible (abstract)."

Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to FIG. 1 of Schwarzenberger which illustrates that the display units 2, 3 are not subdivided, and that the unsubdivided image is shifted. Applicant notes that the rejection and the Schwarzenberger reference do not describe shifting sectional images (i.e., images that are projected from subdivided sections of a display device). In addition, Applicant respectfully notes that the images on the display devices 2, 3 in Schwarzenberger do not include gaps such that there is no teaching or suggestion in Schwarzenberger as to shifting the image to eliminate gaps as indicated by the Examiner.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Steffensmeier and/or Schwarzenberger do not teach or suggest:

"at least one lens assembly being configured to provide a shift so the respective projected sectional image on the screen is shifted sideways with respect to an axis normal to the corresponding sectional image" as recited in claim 1;

"the projecting step includes shifting at least one of the projected sectional images sideways on the screen with respect to an axis normal to the corresponding sectional image" as recited in claim 28; or

"the projecting means including means for shifting at least one of the projected sectional images sideways on the screen with respect to an axis normal to the corresponding sectional image on the display device" as recited in claim 37.

Claims 2-4, 6-10, 12-14, 20-23, 27, 29, 34-36 and 40 depend from respective claims 1, 28 and 37 such that claims 2-4, 6-10, 12-14, 20-23, 27, 29, 34-36 and 40 incorporate all of the limitations of claims 1, 28 and 37. Therefore, Steffensmeier and/or Schwarzenberger do not appear to teach or suggest the subject matter of claims 2-4, 6-10, 12-14, 20-23, 27, 29, 34-36 and 40 for the reasons provided above with regard to claims 1, 28 and 37 plus other elements in the claims.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 2-4, 6-10, 12-14, 20-23, 27-29, 34-37 and 40 are respectfully requested.

II. *There is no motivation or suggestion to combine Steffensmeier and Schwarzenberger.*

The Final Office Action states at page 3 that “[i]t would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to adapt the specific configuration disclosed by Schwarzenberger to the device disclosed by Steffensmeier so that the gaps between the neighboring parts of the image are less visible than the gaps between the neighboring parts of the display area (abstract).” Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion. Applicant notes that the statement is not derived from the references. Applicant further notes that the statement does not provide a suggestion to combine Schwarzenberger with Steffensmeier.

In addition, the Office Action must provide specific, objective evidence of record for a finding of a suggestion or motivation to combine reference teachings and must explain the reasoning by which the evidence is deemed to support such a finding. *In re Sang Su Lee*, 277 F.3d 1338, 61 U.S.P.Q.2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 2002). Mere conclusory statements are unsatisfactory.

“With respect to Lee’s application, neither the examiner nor the Board adequately supported the selection and combination of the Nortrup and Thunderchopper references to render obvious that which Lee described. The examiner’s conclusory statements that ‘the demonstration mode is just a programmable feature which can be used in many different devices for providing automatic introduction by adding the proper programming software’ and that ‘another motivation would be that the automatic demonstration mode is user friendly and it functions as tutorial’ do not adequately address the issue of motivation to combine. This factual question of motivation is material to patentability, and could not be resolved on subjective belief and unknown authority. It is improper, in determining whether a person of ordinary skill in the art would have been lead to this combination of references, simply to use ‘[use] that which the inventor taught against its teacher.’ *W.L. Gore V. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F. 2d 1540, 1553, 220 USPQ 303, 312-13 (Fed. Cir. 1983).” *Lee*, at 1343, 1344.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner’s statement is analogous to the conclusory statements made by the Examiner and Board in the *In re Lee* case. In addition, Applicant notes that the only teach relating to (i) subdividing each display device into separate display sections; and (ii) shifting sectional images from subdivided sections of a display device is found in Applicant’s specification and claims.

Since the cited references do not describe each and every element of the claims 1, 2-4, 6-10, 12-14, 20-23, 27-29, 34-37 and 40, and there is no motivation or suggestion to combine the

cited references, the rejection should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 2-4, 6-10, 12-14, 20-23, 27-29, 34-37 and 40 are respectfully requested.

Second §103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 5 and 24-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steffensmeier and Schwarzenberger in view of Itoh et al. (US 6,337,724). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because the combination of Steffensmeier, Schwarzenberger and Itoh does not describe each and every element of the claimed invention.

Applicant hereby incorporates each of the arguments made in the sections above relating to the Steffensmeier and Schwarzenberger references. As discussed above, Applicant can not find in Steffensmeier and Schwarzenberger any description as to:

- i. “each display device is subdivided into a plurality of sections with each section separately configured to display a sectional image, each display device including a dead-band region between each pair of adjacent sections” in combination with “wherein the lens assemblies provide magnification to merge adjacent projected sectional images together to eliminate the dead-band regions from the tiled image”; and
- ii. “at least one lens assembly being configured to provide a shift so the respective projected sectional image on the screen is shifted sideways with respect to an axis normal to the corresponding sectional image” as recited in claim 1.

Applicant similarly can not find in Itoh any description as to (i) subdividing each display device into separate display sections; and (ii) shifting sectional images from the subdivided sections of the display device. Therefore, even if Itoh is combined with Steffensmeier and Schwarzenberger, the cited combination still does not appear to disclose all of the limitations that are recited in claim 1.

Claims 5 and 24-25 depend from claim 1 such that claims 5 and 24-25 incorporate all of the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, the cited combination does not appear to describe the subject matter of claims 5 and 24-25 for the reasons provided above with regard to claim 1.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 5 and 24-25 are respectfully requested.

Third §103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 11, 15-16 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steffensmeier and Schwarzenberger in view of Sheridan (U.S. 5,777,782). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because the combination of Steffensmeier, Schwarzenberger and Sheridan does not describe each and every element of the claimed invention.

Applicant hereby incorporates each of the arguments made in the sections above relating to the Steffensmeier and Schwarzenberger references. As discussed above, Applicant can not find in Steffensmeier and Schwarzenberger any description as to:

- i. “each display device is subdivided into a plurality of sections with each section separately configured to display a sectional image, each display device including a dead-band region between each pair of adjacent sections” in combination with “wherein the lens assemblies provide magnification to merge adjacent projected sectional images together to eliminate the dead-band regions from the tiled image”; and
 - ii. “at least one lens assembly being configured to provide a shift so the respective projected sectional image on the screen is shifted sideways with respect to an axis normal to the corresponding sectional image” as recited in claim 1;
- or
- i. “subdividing each of the display devices into a plurality of separate display sections such that there is a dead-band region between each pair of adjacent sections on each display device” in combination with “wherein projecting the sectional image displayed on each section includes . . . magnifying adjacent sectional images on either side of the dead-band regions to eliminate the dead-band regions from the tiled image”; and
 - ii. “the projecting step includes shifting at least one of the projected sectional images sideways on the screen with respect to an axis normal to the corresponding sectional image” as recited in claim 28;

Applicant similarly can not find in Sheridan any description as to (i) subdividing each display device into separate display sections; and/or (ii) shifting sectional images from the subdivided sections of the display device. Therefore, even if Sheridan is combined with Steffensmeier and Schwarzenberger, the cited combination still does not appear to disclose all of the limitations that are recited in claims 1 and 28.

Claims 11, 15-16 and 30 depend from respective claims 1 and 28 such that claims 11, 15-16 and 30 incorporate all of the limitations of claims 1 and 28. Therefore, the cited combination does not appear to describe the subject matter of claims 11, 15-16 and 30 for the reasons provided above with regard to claims 1 and 28.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 11, 15-16 and 30 are respectfully requested.

Fourth §103 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steffensmeier and Schwarzenberger in view of Zimmerman et al. (U.S. 5,598,281). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because the combination of Steffensmeier, Schwarzenberger and Zimmerman does not describe each and every element of the claimed invention.

Applicant hereby incorporates each of the arguments made in the sections above relating to the Steffensmeier and Schwarzenberger references. As discussed above, Applicant can not find in Steffensmeier and Schwarzenberger any description as to:

- i. “each display device is subdivided into a plurality of sections with each section separately configured to display a sectional image, each display device including a dead-band region between each pair of adjacent sections” in combination with “wherein the lens assemblies provide magnification to merge adjacent projected sectional images together to eliminate the dead-band regions from the tiled image”; and
- ii. “at least one lens assembly being configured to provide a shift so the respective projected sectional image on the screen is shifted sideways with respect to an axis normal to the corresponding sectional image” as recited in claim 1.

Applicant similarly can not find in Zimmerman any description as to (i) subdividing each display device into separate display sections; and (ii) shifting sectional images from the subdivided sections of the display device. Therefore, even if Zimmerman is combined with Steffensmeier and Schwarzenberger, the cited combination still does not appear to disclose all of the limitations that are recited in claim 1.

Claim 26 depends from claim 1 such that claim 26 incorporates all of the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, the cited combination does not appear to describe the subject matter of claim 26 for the reasons provided above with regard to claim 1.

Reconsideration and allowance of claim 26 are respectfully requested.

Reservation of Right to Traverse Statements in the Office Action

Applicant respectfully reserves the right to traverse any statement that was made in the Office Action relating to the pending rejections. Applicant is expressly not admitting to any assertions that were made in the Office Action.

Reservation of Right to Swear Behind References

Applicant reserves the right to swear behind any references which are cited in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§102(a), 102(e), 103/102(a), and 103/102(e). Statements distinguishing the claimed subject matter over the cited references are not to be interpreted as admissions that the references are prior art.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612) 373-6972 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.


Respectfully submitted,

MATTHEW B. DUBIN ET AL.

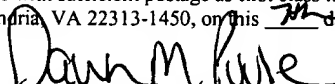
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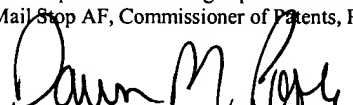
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